THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) As on 26.12.1996, 243 applications were pending for consideration for grant of Letters of Intent for setting up of new sugar mills in the Country. The details of these applications have been sent to Ministry of Industry for necessary scrutiny as per the revised guidelines issued vide Press Note No. 1(1997 series) dated 10.1.1997. Thereafter, 4 applications have been received through the Ministry of Industry.

(b) Central Government does not set up sugar mills in any part of the country. It, however, grants Letters of Intent/ Industrial Licences for setting up of new sugar mills.

(c) and (d) It is not possible at present to specify any time frame in this regard.

Allotment of Levy Sugar to States on the basis of population

2310. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allots levy sugar to States on the basis of population figures of 1991 Census, while the population growth is a continuing factor;

(b) if so, the population of Gujarat as per 1991 Census and as per population projections computed on the basis of basic data by State Government at the end of 1996; and

(c) the quantity of levy sugar provided to Gujarat each month since July, 1996 the quantum requested for by Government of Gujarat on the basis of projected population updated as per basic contributing factors?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is allocating levy sugar to States/UTs on the basis of population figures of 1991 census because the availability of levy sugar has yet to attain stability to the extent needed for allocating it on the basis of the present projected population.

(b) The population of Gujarat as per 1991 census and the projected population of 1996 are 41.31 millions and 44.14 millions, respectively.

(c) The monthly levy sugar quota of Gujarat State since January, 1996 is 17,557 M.Ts. The Government of Gujarat have been requesting enhancement of levy sugar quota by 10% to meet the additional requirement of sugar on account of increase in population. The Government of India have already allotted 10% ad-hoc increase in the monthly levy quotas of all the States/UTs including the State of Gujarat for the months of December, 1996, January, 1997 and February, 1997.

Complaints about short supply of Wheat and Rice by Gujarat

2311. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has been persistently complaining about short supplies of wheat and rice and requesting for increase in the monthly allocation of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the requirement of wheat and rice allocations as presented by State Government each month and allocations made and quantities lifted since July 1996; and

(c) the steps taken to make good the short supplies?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC